

Dr. Grant Selfridge read a short history on the subject of Bronchoscopy, as well as describing the instruments used. Lantern slides were used to show normal and pathological conditions met with in the use of the Bronchoscope. Drs. Selfridge, Blake and a nurse now prepared a patient for demonstrating the passing of the tube and after it was in place those present were given the opportunity of looking through the tube. Every one present greatly enjoyed Dr. Selfridge's paper and demonstration and we hope he will appear before this Society again.

Dr. Rucker of the M. H. S. gave a most interesting talk on "Plague as seen by the camera," using several dozen lantern slides to illustrate his remarks. As few of the physicians in this vicinity knew of the actual work done by the M. H. S. during the plague epidemic, the slides shown were of great interest, and if the applause given Dr. Rucker is any criterion, he and several hundred more slides will be given a royal welcome by this Society any time he can come here again.

K. C. PARK, Secretary.

ALAMEDA COUNTY.

The regular meeting of the Alameda County Medical Association was called to order at 8:45 p. m., President E. M. Keys in the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. Dr. A. Liliencrantz read a paper on "Fractures of the Skull," which was later followed by open discussion. The following resolution was indorsed unanimously by a standing vote:

Whereas, It has pleased Divine Providence to remove from our midst our esteemed colleague and brother, Dr. James P. Dunn, who by his professional attainments and skill, his service to public sanitation and his many good qualities of mind and heart have endeared him to his professional associates; therefore be it

Resolved, That we record our sense of loss at his untimely departure and extend our deepest sympathy to his bereaved family. Be it further resolved that a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to his widow.

Respectfully submitted,

DR. FRANK ADAMS,

DR. O. D. HAMLIN,

DR. H. G. THOMAS, Committee.

On the motion of Dr. H. G. Thomas a copy of the resolutions adopted by this society April 14, 1908, in regard to the plague situation, was ordered sent to the Board of Trade. Dr. E. N. Ewer read an official report of the plague situation, the work done, and present conditions, being the official report from the health office, signed by Dr. Long. The secretary read a letter from Dr. N. K. Foster, of Sacramento, endorsing our efforts in regard to the plague campaign.

Dr. A. Liliencrantz, synopsis of paper: Brain surgery is rapidly becoming a distinct specialty. Every surgeon, however, has a fair practical knowledge of what ought to be done in the ordinary injuries of the skull—2½ per cent of all fractures are of the skull. Don't always look for the classical symptoms, because these are likely to vary; you may have practically no symptoms beyond the history of an injury to the head. Don't expect to make an immediate diagnosis. Treat every case symptomatically until you are sure of diagnosis. In regard to the location of an injury to the brain, acute troubles are more difficult to locate than slow growths or chronic conditions. Differentiate between intra- and extra-dural troubles if you can. Lumbar puncture will often facilitate the diagnosis in regard to fracture. In severe injuries Cushing states that 90 per cent of those not operated on die, especially when confined to the base of the

skull, 60 per cent die within twenty-four hours. The modern method of making a large bone flap freely exposing considerable area of the brain surface and replacing the flap without any loss of bone, I think a very great improvement. It gives the operator a better chance to work. Don't forget that it is quite impossible to tell on which side the clot may be, it is well known that the hemorrhage may be on the same side as the motor symptoms.

The discussion was opened by Dr. R. T. Stratton, who stated that he believed the wide open incision indicated when necessary, but not as a regular procedure, sub-dural traumatism generally gives a higher temperature,—when in doubt always make a scalp incision and make a thorough examination of the skull. Drs. Bull, Adams, Porter and Buteau concluded the discussion. Dr. Buteau referred to a case that came under his care the fourth day after injury. The man had been beaten to unconsciousness by a gas-pipe thug, the lacerations in the scalp showed a dozen injuries, all of which were open and infected. A large scalp incision from the left temporal to the right posterior occipital region was made, and half the skull exposed, dissecting back the periosteum with the flap, the skull looked like a chicken board, the bones broken in small pieces, dirt and infection making their replacement impossible. Thirty-two square inches of bone were thrown away, ample drainage established, and the scalp replaced. The recovery was uneventful, patient regaining consciousness in two days. He attributed his success in this case, not to any special surgical skill, but to the radical measures adopted and the fact that the brain did not become infected.

During August 25th and 26th, Dr. Joseph Price of Philadelphia was a guest of this society. On August 25th a surgical clinic was held at the County Hospital; on the evening of August 26th a banquet was given in his honor at St. Marks, both of which were well attended.

The doctor proved himself a most genial guest, as well as a skillful surgeon, talking freely on all surgical questions; the clinic at the hospital included a perineal repair, vaginal hysterectomy and a laparotomy for pyosalpinx. One hundred and twenty-eight physicians were present, some forty automobiles being used.

Dr. Price congratulated Alameda County in having so many up-to-date hospitals and especially referred to our county institution, which was a first-class hospital and not an almshouse. He thought this institution far in advance of many of our eastern states. He thanked the society for the courtesies shown him and congratulated us on the harmony that seemed to prevail among the physicians here.

M. LEWIS EMERSON, Secretary.

CONCERNING THE ABBOTT ALKALOIDAL COMPANY.

"This Journal is in receipt of a letter, dated July 22, 1908, from Dr. W. C. Abbott, president of the Abbott Alkaloidal Company, which reads in part as follows: 'The good and welfare of the medical profession, as well as justice to ourselves, demand that we no longer remain silent in this matter of the continued unjust and absolutely unwarranted attacks being made upon us through the Journal of the American Medical Association by a coterie of people led by its editor who are using its pages for some ulterior purpose best known to themselves.' The writer than says that a pamphlet explaining his position is being forwarded to us, and continues: 'We bespeak for this presentation your most earnest attention. The interest of the profession you serve demands that you peruse it carefully and that you express your sentiments fully in your own publication.'

"We are glad of the opportunity to reply publicly to this letter, and desire to speak plainly and definitely on several points.

"In the first place, the American Medical Association has put the Abbott Alkaloidal Company under the ban, not in a spirit of animosity and unfairness, but that the medical profession of this country may be made aware of the true character of this company and its officers. In questioning this act of the American Medical Association it must be realized that this association is an organized body of 30,000 physicians, for the most part representative men and good citizens. Moreover, the work and policy of this association is entirely in the hands and under the control of its House of Delegates, which is a legislative body composed of physicians chosen by ballot in regular meetings of all the various state medical societies, which, with their component county societies, represent an organization of 75,000 physicians, or five-eighths of all the practitioners of the United States.

"A thorough investigation has been conducted into the affairs of the Abbott Alkaloidal Company, with the result of laying painfully bare its modern schemes of high finance, together with its methods of working the medical profession. The evident conclusions are: (1) That the president of the Abbott Alkaloidal Company has used, and is now using, his position as a member of the medical profession as a commercial asset; (2) That the company is publishing what purports to be a medical journal devoted to the medical sciences and to the interests of medical practitioners, but which, to all intents and purposes, is a house organ devoted to the interests of the company and to the advertising of its products; (3) That the president and vice-president of the company, though engaged in commercial lines, are members of medical societies and use this membership in medical meetings to advance the interests of their firm; (4) That the same officers, for the same reason, flood the reading pages of medical journals with so-called original articles, which are but thinly veiled advertisements, e. g., 48 articles by Dr. Abbott, who is not in active practice, appeared in various medical journals during 1907, almost all of which dealt with the treatment of different diseases; (5) That by glowing promises the company has induced physicians to become financially interested in its business and thus users and promoters of its products.

"The pamphlet, entitled 'An Appeal for a Square Deal,' alias 'Dr. Abbott's Reply to His Critics,' was duly received. This is a 48-page booklet with a full page frontispiece of Abbott in his shirt-sleeves, together with thirty-five pictures of the company's plant, from the sugar-coating to the circular-sending department, which have no direct bearing on the text. The reading matter varies in substance from an appealing whine to the heights of braggadocio. It certainly is not an argumentative document, and a careful perusal of its full contents serves in no way to convince the thoughtful reader that the charges of the American Medical Association were at all unfounded or exaggerated. In fact, the whole thing is a huge, palpable advertisement, and we can only express our sympathy for those who may be gullible enough to be at all taken in by it. Any possible show of dignity is absolutely lost by the all-pervading atmosphere of commercialism and Abbottism and the ever-present grasping out for the cash, e. g., 'The greatest bargain ever offered, a six months' subscription to the best medical journal published (American Journal of Clinical Medicine, nee Alkaloidal Clinic), a post-graduate course, a 300-page text-book of "active principle" therapeutics, and a 9-vial pocket case filled, all for one dollar.' Not for one moment does the man seem to be able to divorce himself from his dollar-getting schemes, either in his business, his literature, his journal or his personal defense.

"If any of our readers do not wish to accept the judgment of any man in this matter, let him ask himself and likewise answer the following question: 'What special virtue is to be found in Abbott, his company, his journal or his manufactured products, that can not be as well, or better, obtained elsewhere?' Several of these features have already received our comment, but what about his products and 'active principles'? Alkaloids, as pure as he can manufacture, are by no means rare or unique as remedial agents, and, furthermore, investigation by expert chemists has shown that many of his products are neither 'alkaloids' nor 'active principles,' while not a few of them are typical nostrums. In other words, anything of value that Abbott may place on the market can be readily secured from reputable drug houses, while there are already enough houses from which nostrums of all shades and varieties can be purchased. As has been pointed out, the Abbott Company is equipped to furnish not only the theory, the principles and the practice, but also the drugs for their application. It certainly would seem that a physician who in any way lends his support to the Abbott Company is nothing more than a penny-in-the-slot machine of which Abbott et al. hold the key.

"We have gone into this discussion in order to acquaint our readers with the facts as we see them, and in accord with our general endeavor to elevate the profession to which we belong, to make the M. D. of the physician-stand for disinterested professionalism, to protect the doctor from the impositions of shrewd schemers, and to show that medical journals can succeed without endorsing the advertisements of fakes, nostrums and irregular business methods. It is very apparent that the editors of many medical publications are being 'worked' by the Abbott Company and that their official mouths are effectually sealed from uttering any words of protest by their acceptance of the Abbott advertisement.

"The burning question is, on which side should the physician and the medical journal stand? The middle ground is slippery and slants to the marshes and the mires."—The Old Dominion Journal of Medicine and Surgery, September, 1908, Richmond, Va.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA HOSPITAL.

The University of California Hospital has been projected for some years, but the actual beginning of construction had been delayed owing to the difficulty of procuring the very large sum of money which was desired in order that the institution might start with a proper plant and an adequate endowment and that the Regents of the University and the faculty of the Medical Department might not have the burden of support upon them, as well as the task of management. These plans were, of course, necessarily abandoned at the time of the earthquake and the fire. But a step had been taken and that had been the removal of the first two years of the medical course from San Francisco to Berkeley, thus emptying all of the laboratories, recitation rooms, and lecture rooms occupied by the students of the first two years. Shortly after the earthquake, at a meeting of the faculty, it was decided that in view of the recognized difficulty of carrying the school without the hospital, and the now greater difficulty which was imposed by the crisis of the disaster, and also in view of the fact that hospital facilities were cryingly needed at that time in San Francisco, the faculty would undertake the task of raising money for equipping a part of the building for hospital purposes. In doing this, the original plan of having a fully endowed hospital which should be free to all of the poor of the State of California was regretfully abandoned, and it was decided that we would have a hospital similar to the other hospitals